AUGUST 2025

BLACK WALL STREET

PENNSYLVANIA

FREE

Events in York, Pennsylvania, August 2025

Articles of Confederation
Our nation's first constitution. Adopted November 15, 1777, in the York County Courthouse, the Articles united the 13 colonies by establishing the government of the United States of America. Remained in effect until replaced by the Constitution in 1789.

National Night Out
Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2025
Location: Various neighborhoods throughout York City
York City will join communities across the nation in celebrating National Night Out, a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Residents are invited to attend local block parties, festivals, and family-friendly gatherings taking place throughout the city.

Saturday in the Park
Date: Saturday, August 2, 2025 Location: Springettsbury Park, York, PA
Admission: Free
Kick off the month with "Saturday in the Park," a full day of free, family-friendly entertainment. Enjoy food trucks, carnival games, live music, and more at scenic Springettsbury Park. Perfect for all ages.

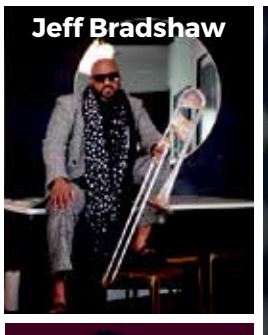
First-Time Homebuyers Seminar
Date: Saturday, August 2, 2025
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Martin Memorial Library, York, PA
Prospective homeowners are invited to a free seminar designed to educate first-time buyers on the home-purchasing process. Topics include financing options, navigating the housing market, and working with real estate professionals. Hosted at the Martin Memorial Library.

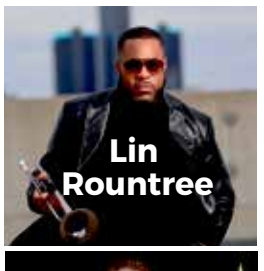
Commissioners: Justin Douglas | Mike Pries | George P. Hartwick, III

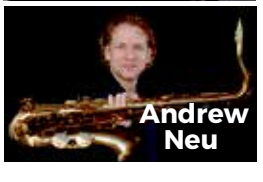
DAUPHIN COUNTY
JAZZ&WINE FESTIVAL
September 6 & 7
3 - 8 PM
Fort Hunter Park
Harrisburg, PA

Sponsored by:
PHFA
PA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

For the complete lineup, including wineries, vendors, hotels, and more, scan the QR code!







Letter From the Editor

I am still trying to figure this out in my head. Wasn't I just talking about the beginning of summer? I am not going to say that cliche, we are all thinking about. No, I am wrong. I am going to say it. Time flies when you are having fun! I am still coming down from the high of how Harrisburg showed up and showed out for Juneteenth. We won't let the excitement wane. This month, we're focusing on last-minute vacations and how to get them in before school starts while staying on a budget.

Speaking of school. That's right, in a few short weeks, your little darlings will be off to school again. This month, we are taking a moment to recognize some outstanding community leaders who have provided our youth with excellent activities and field trips over the summer. I spoke to our illustrious Floyd Stokes, who is well known for his writing camps for kids, and Ann West. West is in the mix with her kids in Lancaster, PA. You'll hear about how they continue to run these great programs for our kids and still find funding to keep them all affordable.

BWSP is very much in touch with what's going on with the city's unhoused. We had the opportunity to speak with Jennie Thompson, who heads a ministry under DaySpring Ministries in Middletown, PA. Thompson spoke with us about the relationships she has developed with the people who are encamped at Tent City near Front Street in Harrisburg. Thompson is doing some great work. We have also provided a list of resources that you may find helpful.

Our newest contributing writer, Lynn Blackstone, explores the mental health issues affecting our community, offering practical tips for support. Our spiritual lives are also important. Donna Barber examines how we can reach out and support our grieving loved ones. As you see, BWSP has a lot going on this month. We would like to thank you, our readers, again for your continued support. All right now, I'll see you all in a bit!

Love and Peace,

Roe Braddy

CREDITS

PUBLISHER
LHAYANA DALLAS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ROE BRADDY
RBCleanPageEditing@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
BRYNET GRAY - CENTRAL PENN COLLEGE INTERN
REV. NATHANIEL GADSDEN
DONNA BARBER
LYNN BLACKSTONE
VERONICA HOLLAND

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
CATALIN DANIEL CIOLCA
www.catalinciolca.com

ADVERTISING SALES
WILLIAM DALLAS
717-608-8742
williamdallas04@gmail.com

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Please refer to the Fee Schedule.
OPEN

Unapologetically Her

By Trey "Smoov" Washington

Unapologetically Her is a visual tribute to Black femininity, power, and pride. The bold afro and piercing gaze of the central figure are layered over an explosive abstract background filled with vibrant color, texture, and emotional contrast. The chaos behind her represents the world—messy, loud, and unpredictable. She remains grounded, unbothered, and powerful in her presence. The afro itself is painted with heavy texture to emphasize depth, strength, and legacy. it's a crown, not just hair.

This piece was inspired by the women in my life who have taught me resilience, independence, and grace through adversity. It also speaks to the broader legacy of Black women in culture, often the backbone of communities, yet rarely given their flowers. This piece is their flowers.

Trey "Smoov" Washington, known artistically as Smoov, an artist born and raised in Uptown Harrisburg, PA. His art lives at the intersection of struggle and hope. Although he failed art class every year in high school, eventually, art became his therapy, voice, and purpose.

Never touching a paintbrush. Instead, Smoov uses credit cards to create an untraditional method that gives his work a raw, textured, and deeply personal style. Every piece made is a reflection of my journey, molded by pain, growth, and the desire to bring light where there's often none.

Coming from a place where high vibrations and hope can feel scarce, being able to transform that energy into something beautiful and see it displayed around the city, is a true blessing. It's proof that it's never too late to grow, evolve, and pursue your calling.

Mental Health Awareness

By Lynn Blackstone

Mental health issues have become one of the major concerns in the African American communities since the pandemic. Most schools have gone back to brick and mortar, but there has been an increase in the number of African American families that have chosen to homeschool their children. According to an article written by Forbes magazine, there has been a steady increase from 3.3% in the spring of 2020 to 16.1% in the fall of 2020, with African American families that have decided to homeschool their children.

This increase in homeschooling has also led to a rise in children who utilize technology and social media platforms as their primary means of communication. Statistics have also shown that the way children access information can contribute to social isolation.

Children are not the only ones who are experiencing stress. African American adults are grappling with the stress of trying to make ends meet as daily necessities become more expensive. All these things play a part in our mental health and wellness.

These new life stressors have prompted the medical community to add a new diagnosis to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, TR-5 (DSM-5).

The newest diagnosis is acute stress disorder. Acute stress disorder is a condition that can occur after a person is exposed to a traumatic event. It is a distinctive reaction to trauma that is characterized by several symptoms. Up until DSM-IV, ASD was a subtype of PTSD. In DSM-IV-TR, ASD was its own diagnosis, but it was not included in DSM-5.

The inclusion of ASD in DSM-5 is a recognition of the fact that not everyone who experiences a traumatic event will go on to develop PTSD. For some people, the initial reaction to trauma is ASD.

Sometimes, we become so busy that we fail to recognize the signs our bodies give us that we're stressed. Some signs related to stress are:

1. Unable to concentrate, 2. Scattered thoughts/confusion 3. Digestive issues-overeating/loss of appetite 4. Drug/Alcohol Abuse 5. Sleeping too little or too much 6. Headaches 7. Muscle Tension 8 Irritability.

Not all stress is bad; some stress motivates people to complete tasks.

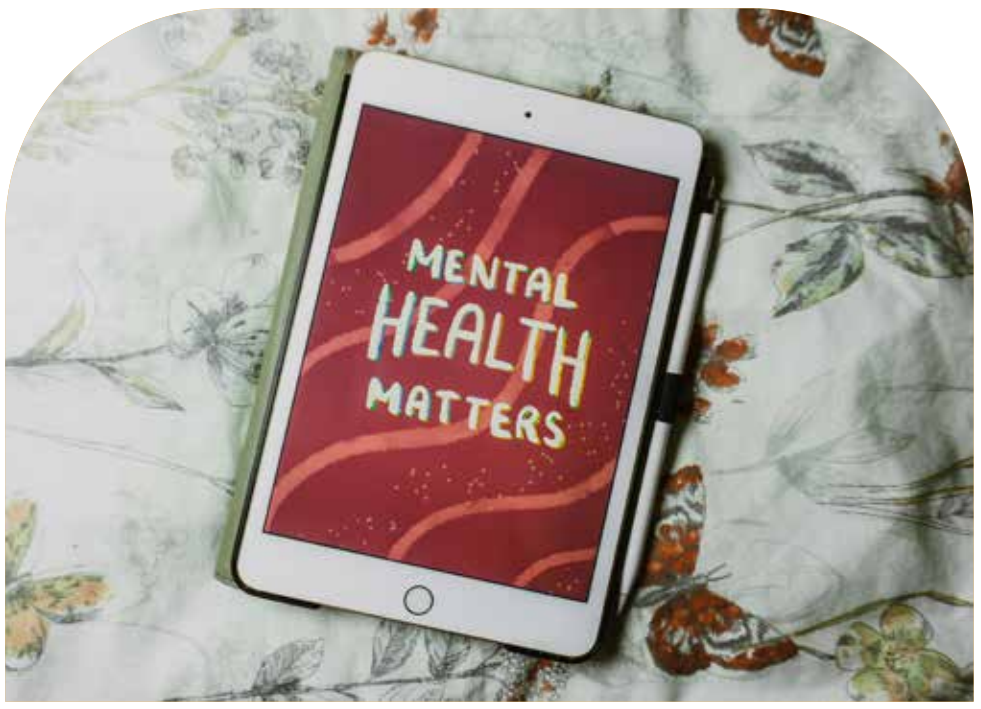
Mental Health Therapists recommend that we do more self-care, such as;

1. Deep breathing exercises- taking deep breaths, counting 1-10
2. Taking walks/rides
3. Listening to music/singing/dancing
4. Talking to positive influences
5. Creative outlets
6. Journaling
7. Watching your favorite television show/listening to a podcast
8. Playing games on your phone/video games

If there is a time when you feel that you may need to contact someone to help you get through a rough time, here are community resources that you can contact:

Dauphin County Crisis Intervention; 717-232-7511 EXT: 988

Connections 24/7 Urgent Care Services (no appointment required) 1100 S. Cameron Street Hbg, Pa. 17104 (717) 408-9173



Butterflies Help the Grieving

Photograph by Suzanne Dwilliams

By Donna Barber

Since 1979, Hospice of Central PA (HCP) has been providing the highest quality of emotional, physical, and spiritual support with compassion and respect. Their mission is to provide personalized, compassionate care and support for patients and their families as they cope with serious illnesses through the end of life. They sponsor an annual Butterfly Release in remembrance and to honor those who are no longer with us. I attended this celebration of life on June 29th of this year at 2:00, held at the Harrisburg Area Community College Rose Garden.

At the end of the ceremony, you are given a tent-shaped paper that holds a sleeping butterfly, which is to be released. We were told to place the tent-shaped paper around our ears. You could hear movement taking place. I was curious as to how they were able to capture these insects. Butterflies enter a dormant state of inactivity as the day gets darker and darker, after they find a safe spot hidden among leaves and bushes to rest.

You may wonder what purpose butterflies serve in the grieving process. This response from an unknown author may clarify your curiosity. "When someone we love dies, we may care to remember that what is death to the caterpillar is life to the butterfly."

As John Adredge from "The Journey of Desire" describes, "Grief is good. It is cleansing. It undoes my world—and that is the best part of it. I need to be undone; simply undone. No regrouping. We need to mourn; it is the only way our hearts can remain free and alive. Why? Because it, like nothing else, puts a stop to the constant striving. Grief is the antidote to the incessant possessive demand within."

Loss is something we will all experience. The hardest part for the grieving individual is when the service is over, and they are left alone in their sadness. It's the "after" that's the hardest part.

If you or a loved one has lost a loved one, there are resources available to help with this process. BWSP wants you to know you are not alone.

The Ministry of Presence: Building Relationships in the Community

By Roe Braddy

Over the past few weeks, the weather in Harrisburg has gone from rainy to over ninety degrees. We have probably complained about it without considering how it affects the lives of those who are unhoused. Jennie Thompson has given this a great deal of thought. She is a member of DaySpring Ministries (DSM). The church is in Middletown, PA. The senior pastor, Darrell Godlock, understands the importance the church plays in supporting the community. DSM has reached back into the community to facilitate a variety of community programs. In the April edition, we spoke to Pastor Darrell Williams, who heads up the Celebrating Recovery program, which expanded its reach by opening a location in Harrisburg in April.

Thompson shared with BWSP that the new ministry does not yet have a name. However, that has not stopped her from seeing its purpose. Currently, it is part of the church's Connection ministry. Thompson states that she wants to be the "hands and the feet" for her community. Building relationships and meeting the spiritual needs of the individuals who live in the tent city. This community is situated along South Front Street, near the PennDOT building. The encampment is also near Interstate 83, Sycamore Street, and the railroad tracks.

Thompson has the gift of networking and encouragement. She stated that many organizations help meet the physical needs of these individuals. The role that she has embraced is the spiritual one. Thompson indicated that often, those who are struggling with overwhelming issues are simply looking for someone who will listen and pray with them. Thompson is there to provide that.

She has encouraged them to seek help for things such as obtaining medical assistance, food, or other personal items they may need. Thompson indicated that many of these individuals became unhoused because of situations beyond their control, such as the loss of a job, which led to being evicted, domestic violence, and mounting hospital bills that they did not have the income to pay. Thompson encourages the public to change their viewpoint about the individuals they might encounter on the street.

Thompson is helping her church carry out its mission of striving to "Love God, Love People, and Love Ourselves," which is based on Luke 10:27. BWSP wants to thank DSM and Jennie Thompson for all they do to support their community. If you are someone who needs resources, please look at the following lists:

Community Food Resources
The Eclipse Project
Bethany Church of the Nazarene
1605 Parkway, Harrisburg, PA 17112, (Located behind Stauffer's of Kissel Hill on 39).

Starfish Ministries
starfishministrieshbg.org

Housing
Faith-based ministry
helping the unhoused with a variety of needs.
717-379-9030

Health Services
Hamilton Health Center
Contact Person: Angela Blair
130 17th St
Hbg, PA 17104
717-232-9971 ext:3623
ablair@hamiltonhealthcenter.com

Naaman Center
Bridgette Watson
4600 E. Harrisburg Pike
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
717-297-6843
bwatson@naamancenter.com

Social Services
Lost Souls Need Blessings, INC.
www.ISNB@gmail.com
HendersonISNB@gmail.com
412-513-6782

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@Honeybushsmoothiebar
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Thoughts on the Street

By Roe Braddy

BWSP was back on the streets seeking answers about vacationing on a budget. If you are reading this and still looking for a quick getaway, it's not too late. We spoke to Lisa Dixson, a travel agent from Florida. Dixon provided us with some great tips for those looking to invest their extra money in a bit of fun and relaxation.

Dixon suggested that you think about cruising to escape the busyness of your day-to-day life. If you are a first responder, educator, or veteran, you can find great deals with Margaritaville Cruise Lines.

During certain times of the year, they offer free and discounted cruise packages to first-time responders, educators, and veterans. You pay for port fees and taxes. Dixon indicated that it's a great way to pay for an all-inclusive vacation on a budget.

Dixon also told us that buying into a timeshare might not be the bargain it sounds like. She said people often spend more money than expected if the timeshare is not used consistently. One of the other downsides of timeshares is the hidden fees you may not discover until after you have already invested in the timeshare. Dixon also indicated that they are often hard to resell.

Perhaps a staycation would be a good option for you. Many homeowners are turning their backyards into mini vacation spots by turning them into staycation oasis spots. Consider adding a pool or landscaping to help you escape the everyday cityscape. Whatever your choice is, we hope you will find a little time to rest and relax.

Photograph by Sean Pavone

Beyond the Classroom: Supporting Black College Students in Central PA

By Brynet Gray

College life isn't just about classes; it's about staying mentally strong, culturally grounded, and future-ready. For Black students in Central PA, the need for affirming resources and affordable tools is even more essential.

Here's a curated list of things to help students thrive:

Must-Have Items for Student Success

- Beats Studio3 Wireless Headphones: Great for focusing on dorms, study lounges, or on the go.
- Slutty Vegan Hoodie: Stay cozy and rep a Black-owned brand with pride.
- BLK & Bold Coffee: Black-owned, ethically sourced coffee to fuel late-night study sessions.
- Telfar Bag: Fashionable, functional, and perfect for carrying campus essentials.
- Partake Cookies: Allergy-friendly snacks by a Black-owned brand, perfect for dorm cravings.

Bonus: More Black-Owned Brands for College Life

- UNWRP: Stylish, Black-owned wrapping paper and dorm décor.
- Jungalow: Boho-style home décor by Justina Blakeney, ideal for brightening dorm rooms.
- Scotch Porter: High-quality grooming products for men, great for maintaining confidence and self-care.

Let's uplift and support the businesses, products, and services that empower Central PA's Black college students not just to survive college but truly thrive

Summer Fun in the Sun: Summer Camps

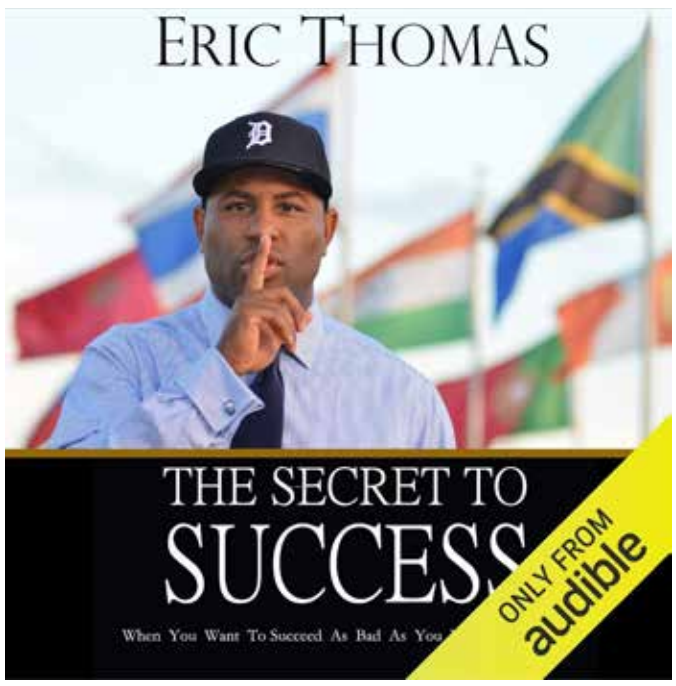
By Roe Braddy

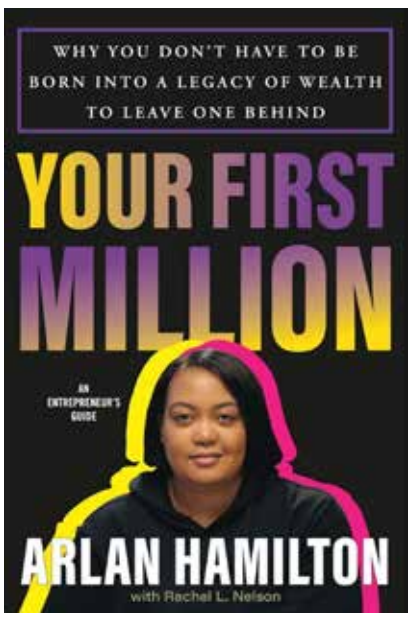
As I said in my editor's letter, time has passed us by quickly. By the time you read this, your children might already be back in school. BWSP wanted to take some time to thank some of our community leaders who facilitated summer camp programs. We don't have to provide statistics to support our claim that youth who have nothing constructive to do during the summer tend to find themselves in compromised situations. We spoke to Floyd Stokes, who has facilitated a writing camp for 3rd through 8th graders for the past ten years. Stokes has given his campers the opportunity to meet some very prestigious community leaders, like State Representative Patty Kim, Commissioner Justin Douglas, and Chief Robert Martin. The students spent their time learning from published authors, attorneys, and other professionals about the craft of writing.

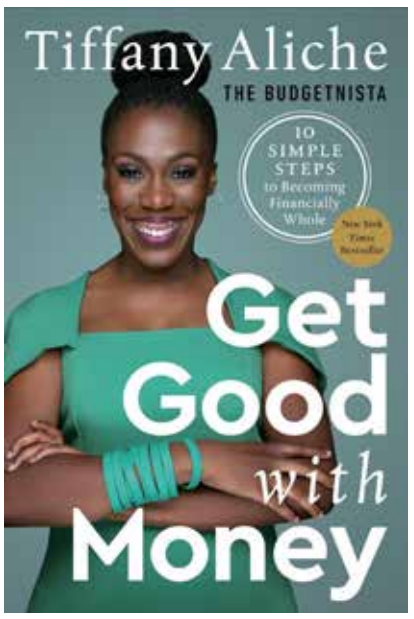
BWSP also spoke with Ann West of Lancaster, PA. West is the program director for a summer camp program called "The Mix." West informed us that this year, a waitlist for enrollment was established, and the camp had to increase its registration fee because it did not receive assistance from the school district. Despite the changes in funding, the camp offered scholarships and provided parents with income-based payment options.

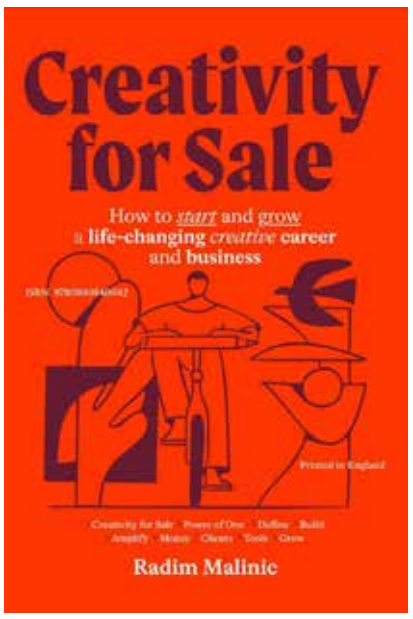
Stokes and West are invaluable leaders when it comes to providing our youth with structured, academic activities. We thank you for investing in our youth and giving them the knowledge that there are people out there who have faith in their success. BWSP stands, loudly applauding you!

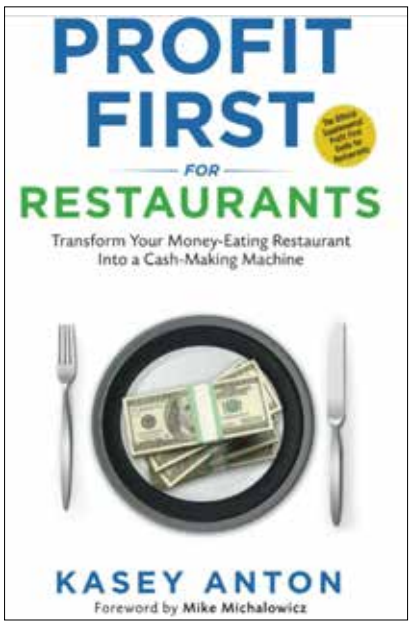
THE ENTREPRENEUR'S BOOKLIST

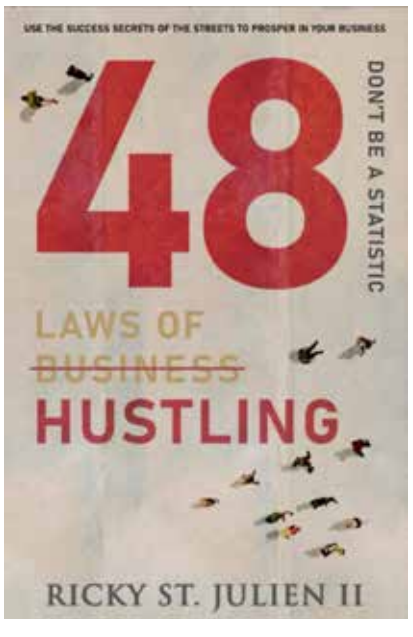



WHY YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BORN INTO A LEGACY OF WEALTH TO LEAVE ONE BEHIND
YOUR FIRST MILLION
AN ENTREPRENEUR'S GUIDE
ARLAN HAMILTON
with Rachel L. Nelson








USE THE SUCCESS SECRETS OF THE STREETS TO PROSPER IN YOUR BUSINESS
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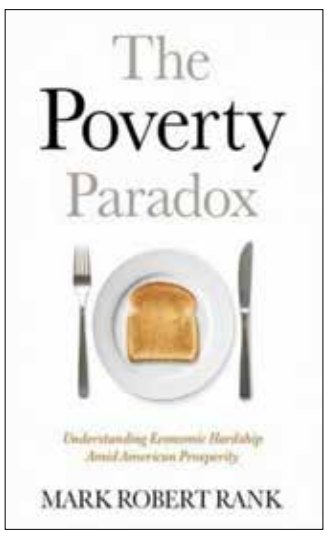
DON'T BE A STATISTIC
LAWS OF
HUSTLING
RICKY ST. JULIEN II



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INSTRUCTORS: AUTHOR, ROE BRADDY, OWNER OF R.B. CLEAN PAGE EDITING

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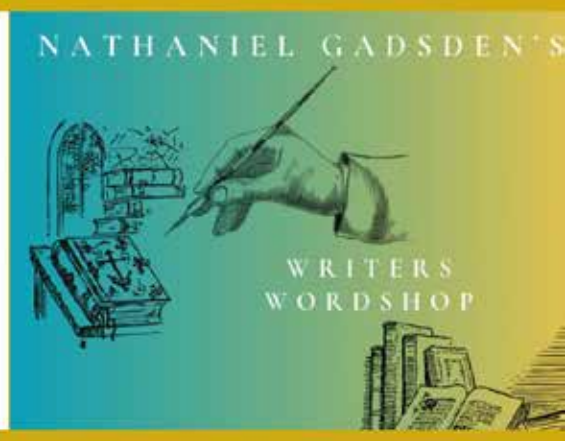

EVENT DETAILS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

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